

## Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SWF-01 EB-04 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 /070 W

----- 016211

R 181800Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6344

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: GDR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, 1974

1. SUMMARY: A PROMIHEHT TRADE SOURCE DESCRIBED THE 1974 GRAIN PRODUCTION AS ANOTHER RECORD CROP BASED ON AN INCREASED AREA. FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION WAS UP EXCEPT APPARENTLY FOR CORN WHERE REDUCED AREA AND SPOTTY GROWTH REDUCED YIELDS FOR ENSILAGE AND GRAIN IN TOTAL. THE ROOT CROP HARVEST WAS DELAYED; LOWER QUALITY POTATOES POSE A STORAGE PROBLEM, AND SUGAR BEET DELIVERIES TO PROCESSORS ARE LATER THAN USUAL. FIELD FEED QUANTITIES ARE CONSIDERED VERY GOOD. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND PRODUCTION INCREASED IN 1974 OVER 1973. FALL SOWING HAS BEEN DELAYED. GRAIN AND PROTEIN FEED PRODUCTION ARE TO BE GIVEN FURTHER PRIORITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF GDR 1974 AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION WAS RECEIVED FROM A PROMINENT TRADING FIRM:

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A. GRAIN CROP - THE GDR HARVESTED A RECORD GRAIN CROP IN

1974 FROM 2,394,000 HECTARES COMPARED TO 2,377,000 HECTARES HARVESTED IN 1973. QUALITY IN GENERAL IS INFERIOR TO LAST YEAR, BUT THE WHEAT AND RYE SHIPPED TO WEST BERLIN SO FAR WERE QUITE ACCEPTABLE. QUANTITATIVE RESULTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE KNOWN AS YET. THE HARVEST WAS DELAYED BY FREQUENT RAINS THAT ALSO Affected POST HARVEST FIELD WORK.

B. WINTER FEED CROPS - ABOUT NINE MILLION TONS OF FEED WERE HARVESTED FROM ABOUT 500,000 HECTARES PLANTED TO WINTER INTERMEDIATE CROPS LAST SPRING. THIS COMPARES WITH ABOUT EIGHT MILLION TONS FROM 28 PERCENT FEWER HECTARES IN 1973

C. POTATOES - GROWN ON ABOUT 600,000 HECTARES (650,000 IN 1973), YIELDED WELL, BUT QUALITY PROBLEMS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS WERE EVEN MORE SEVERE. THERE ARE STORAGE FACILITIES IN THE MARKETING-STORAGE-PROCESSING CHAIN FOR ABOUT 800,000 TONS, WELL BELOW THE REQUIREMENT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF ABOUT 1.3 MILLION TONS. THERE IS ADDITIONAL STORAGE CAPACITY OF ABOUT 600,000 TONS FOR SEED POTATOES. IN ORDER TO USE A LARGE SHARE OF THE NON-STORABLE POTATOES, FARMS QUOTE ARE REQUESTED TO UTILIZE ALL POSSIBILITIES TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL STEAMING AND PRESERVING CAPACITIES UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT OF THE LIMITED STORAGE SPACE A LARGE PART OF THE CROP IS STORED IN PITS. DIGGING OF LATE POTATOES WAS COMPLETED ONLY RECENTLY.

D. SUGAR BEETS - LESS THAN FORTY PERCENT OF THE 234,000 HECTARES HAVE BEEN HARVESTED SO FAR. LAST YEAR THE SUGAR BEET AREA WAS ABOUT 229,000 HECTARES. ONLY 1.3 MILLION TONS HAD BEEN PROCESSED BY THE 47 SUGAR FACTORIES BY THE END OF OCTOBER. THE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE INCLUDED 6,300 TOPPERS; 5,000 LOADING LIFTERS; AND 140 FULLY MECHANIZED BEET HARVESTERS. SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS TRANSFERRED TO AREAS WITH LIGHTER SOILS SO IT

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COULD BE USED WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE OR TWO FRONT  
TRACTORS.

E. CORN - TOTAL AREA IS ABOUT 328,000 HECTARES COMPARED  
WITH 335,000 HECTARES FOR ENSILAGE AND GREEN FEED, AND  
3,900 HECTARES FOR CORN AS GRAIN IN 1973. UNEVEN AND  
DELAYED GROWTH WAS FURTHER HAMPERED BY FROST THAT WILL  
BE REFLECTED IN YIELDS.

F. FIELD FEED - TAKEN AS A WHOLE, GROWTH OF FIELD FEED  
WAS VERY GOOD THIS YEAR, AND RESULTED IN ABOUT ONE-  
THIRD MORE HAY AND OTHER DRY FEED COMPARED WITH LAST  
YEAR. SUMMER INTERMEDIATE CROPS ON 466,000 HECTARES  
(260,000 HECTARES IN 1973) HAD AMPLE MOISTURE ON THE  
WHOLE, BUT GENERAL DELAYS IN FIELD WORK RESULTED IN  
A SHORTER VEGETATION PERIOD.

G. FALL SOWING - BY THE END OF OCTOBER, ABOUT 400,000  
HECTARES OF THE PLANNED 1.74 MILLION HECTARES REMAINED  
TO BE SOWN TO WINTER WHEAT. ABOUT 120,000 HECTARES ARE  
TO BE SEEDED BY AIR INSTEAD OF THE 30,000 ORIGINALLY  
PLANNED. THIS METHOD IS SAID TO HAVE HAD GOOD RESULTS  
WITH NORMAL YIELDS IN 1973. FALL SPROUTING HAS BEEN  
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EVEN SO FAR ALTHOUGH SLOW.

H. WINTER RAPSEED - SOWN EARLY ENOUGH, AT A TECHNICALLY  
FAVORABLE TIME, AND WITH GOOD SOIL CONDITIONS.

I. PLANS - THE GDR PLANS TO GIVE FURTHER  
PRIORITY TO INCREASES IN PRODUCTION OF GRAINS AND PRO-  
TEIN FEEDS.

J. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS - LIVESTOCK NUMBERS PEAKED IN MAY  
BY THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES OVER MAY, 1973:  
CATTLE: 1.7; HOGS 5.6; SHEEP 4.5; LAYING HENS 2.7.

K. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS  
OF 1974, PRODUCTS FROM THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR INCREASED  
7.3 PERCENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1973. THE INCREASE

AMOUNTED TO 128,000 TONS OF SLAUGHTER LIVESTOCK,  
266,000 TONS OF MILK, AND 314 MILLION EGGS.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GRAINS, TRADE DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 NOV 1974  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BONN18041  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740332-1055  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741135/aaaabdqw.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AGR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GDR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, 1974  
**TAGS:** EAGR, GE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005